

Historic, Archive Document

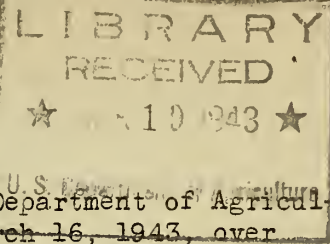
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1. 482
A2 R11

Mar. 16, 1943

Copy 1

MENDING MEN'S SUITS



Broadcast by Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Home Economics, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Tuesday, March 16, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

---000---

RUTH VAN DEMAN: Now to turn from food to clothes. You've just heard a sample of what women are doing to grow and conserve food as part of the all-out for Victory. Not long ago I related the story of a Victory Dress Review put on by a group of women here in Washington. They cleaned...ripped...cut...sewed...and converted cast-off garments of the men in the family into smart, good looking coats and suits for themselves and the children.

Those were the clothes that drew the applause at the show. But they weren't the only ones that the women of this clothes clinic had worked miracles on. There could have been a parade of husbands and brothers, looking very well-dressed in suits that had been mended for them. Seeing those suits, you never would have dreamed that they'd been frayed, torn, and shabby before these expert menders took over.

You're wondering, of course, where the women learned these expert ways of mending men's suits. It's not like ordinary patching and mending. You have to know something about tailoring techniques to do a good job of mending a tailored suit. Even some regular tailors are not very keen about tackling a badly worn suit.

But there's nothing that Clarice Scott and the women who work with her in our home economics laboratories won't tackle, if it means saving cloth and keeping people comfortably dressed during this war. Miss Scott and her assistant, Miss Hagood, got old suits and coats and started experimenting. They didn't stop until they'd found how to fix everything about them from a worn collar roll, to rubbed-out elbows, to frayed trouser cuffs, to torn pockets, and thread-bare knees. On trousers with cuffs they found you can repair them as many as six times before the trousers are shortened enough to be noticeable. And they found how to retread trousers at seat and knees so you can't tell where they've been reinforced. Another thing that seemed almost like magic, they found how to stitch in the pin stripe on a wool suiting where the stripe had worn off leaving "bald" spots.

All this how-to-do-it on mending men's suits they put into a bulletin. I have a copy of it here in my hand. It gives the complete story in words and in pictures -- step by step for every type of repair -- for coat, trousers, vest. As you've guessed, of course, this is where the women in the clothes clinic got their directions for reconditioning the men's suits they worked on. One woman put three of her husband's old suits back into working order. He's prouder of them than he would be of new suits.

If any of you Farm and Home friends want to start a clothes clinic, or do this on your own, of course this bulletin is available to you too. Just send a post card. Address it Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Ask for "Mending Men's Suits." I'll repeat that in case you'd like to jot it down -- "Mending Men's Suits." Address your post card Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

---000---

1870

[Faint handwritten notes]